

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 IBADAN 00946 271549Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
AID-05 TRSE-00 /072 W  
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R 271050Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL IBADAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2313  
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0946

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PINT, PORS, NI  
SUBJ: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION ON POLITICS AND RETURN TO CIVILIAN  
RULE.

REF: LAGOS 12975

WITH LOCAL GOVT ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE TOMORROW, FROM IBADAN IT  
APPEARS THAT THE MACHINERY IS IN PLACE AND ELECTIONS SHOULD  
TAKE PLACE SMOOTHLY, THEREBY TAKING THE FIRST CONCRETE STEP  
TOWARDS RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE WHICH IS WELCOMED BY MOST.

1. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY VIOLENCE IS EXPECTED  
DURING TUESDAY'S ELECTIONS. CANDIDATES ARE CAMPAIGNING QUIETLY.  
ONLY A FEW POSTERS ARE IN EVIDENCE. CANDIDATES ARE NOT GENERATING  
MUCH EXCITEMENT AMONG THE POPULACE WHICH HAS BEEN MORE  
INTERESTED IN CHRISTMAS AND YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS AND BONUSES.  
HOWEVER, INTEREST IN THE ELECTIONS IS BEGINNING TO PERK  
UP. SOME ARE BEIGINNING TO REALIZE THAT ONCE ELECTED, THE  
COUNCILLORS WILL BECOME IMPORTANT PERSONAGES SINCE UNDER THE  
NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION THEY ARE SLATED TO BE THE ELECTORS OF  
THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. IN FACT, SOME OPPOSITION IS BEING  
GENERATED TO THIS IDEA, MAINLY FROM ELEMENTS WHO FEEL THEY ARE  
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PAGE 02 IBADAN 00946 271549Z

NOT INFLUENCING THE ELECTIONS TO THE DEGREE THEY WOULD LIKE  
(READ HERE AWOLOWO).

2. FORMER POLITICIANS WHO HAVE BECOME RICH CONTRACTING CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS IN THE BOOMING STATE TENDER BUSINESS, LIKE CHIEF  
AKIN DEKO, ARE WORKING HARD TO BUILD UP A POWER BASE AT THE

LOCAL LEVEL FOR THE FUTURE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. HE SUCCEEDED IN HAVING THE LOCAL GOVT (ONDO) INSTALL HIS CANDIDATE ON THE HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT THRONE OF INDANRE, VCANT FOR 7 YEARS, OVER THE OPPOSITION OF HIS FORMER MENTOR AND PRESENT OPPONENT CHIEF AWOLOWO. AWOLOWO IS CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY BOLA IGE WHO IS READY TO TAKE OVER IF THE CHIEF FALTERS.

3. THE STATE GOVTS APPEAR TO BE PLAYING THE GAME AS STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE. SECURITY IS PROVIDED TO KEEP POLITICKING AN ELECTIONEERING FROM TURNING TO VIOLENCE. THERE WAS HEAVY SECURITY IN THE BACKGROUND AT THE ENTHRONEMENT AT IDANRE LAST WEEK. THE RUMOR REPORTED IN THE PRESS LAST WEEK THAT THE FORMER ACTION GROUP HEADQUARTERS WAS RAIDED BY THE POLICE TURNS OUT TO BE MERELY THE POLICE CLEANING UP THEIR PROPERTY, WHICH HAD BEEN GRANTED TO THEM FOLLOWING THE END OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, PRIOR TO RENOVATION AS A RECREATION HALL. TAMPER-PROOF BALLOT BOXES ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED AT GREAT EXPENSE.

4. WHILE POLITICIANS AND MANY OTHERS WELCOME THE PROSPECT OF RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE (PARTICULARLY WITH THE PUBLICATION OF SEVERAL CASES OF SENSELESS BRUTALITY TOWARDS INNOCENT CIVILIANS BY SOLDIERS), THERE ARE THOSE SUCH AS SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE BENEFITED UNDER THE MILITARY AND ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO SEE A RETURN TO THE UNCERTAINTIES UNDR CIVILIANS. THEY WOULD NOT BE UNHAPPY TO SEE THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY ARE. THE MILITARY IS NOT INTERFERING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS PURSUING HIS CALLING IN GOVT OR BUSINESS IN A RELATIVELY HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. THERE IS THE IMPRESSION THAT CORRUPTION IS AT LEAST MORE DISCREET THAN  
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PAGE 03 IBADAN 00946 271549Z

UNDER THE PREVIOUS REGIME.

5. ON THIS HOPEFUL NOTE, WE PREPARE TO ENTER THE NEW YEAR.  
HOYT

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## Message Attributes

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